

FRENCH CONGO (230 G 272).—M. Hetteix has shown *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* a block of the 1f. of 1900 with inverted frame.

Our French contemporary (11.04/537) also states that a new printing of all values from 4c. to 5fr. has been made and was issued at Paris on 26.11.04. The shades are much the same as before, but the paper is thinner like that of the 1c. and some of the 2c. issued previously. No errors are reported. This is the last printing which will be made by the private manufactory of the colony; in future the stamps will be produced at the Boulevard Brune Works along with other French and French Colonial stamps.

HYDERABAD (172 C 272).—We take the following note from *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* (11.04/98):—

Dr. Byramji Shavakshah tells us that the use of stamps perforated with the word *Sirkari* was to be introduced, in October, in the Government Offices of this State. The authorities, he says, could not decide whether to surcharge the stamps in *black* or in *red*, so adopted the perforating system, which will save us the trouble of cataloguing them.

We do not approve the decision here stated. If stamps appropriated to official use are worth collecting at all, what difference does it make whether the distinguishing marks are printed or perforated?

LAGOS (271 M 272).—The ½d. with multiple watermark is reported by Messrs. Th. Champion and Co.



Adhesive. Wmk. Crown CA. multiple.
½d. green.

Issued 30.10.04 or earlier. The 1d., 6d. and 1/- have previously been chronicled with the new watermark.

NATAL (269 W 272).—Another value is recorded on the new paper by *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* (11.04/98).



Adhesive. Wmk. Crown CA. multiple.
½d. green.

Issued 11.04 or sooner. The 1d. is the only other value yet recorded.

NORTH BORNEO (258 P 272).—The following new Postage Due stamp is mentioned by *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* (11.04/98).

Postage Due Stamp. Surcharged "POSTAGE DUE" horizontally in black.

1c. black, ochre-brown and red (No. 117).

NOWANUGGUR (A 272).—The following note is from *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* (11.04/98).

"Dr. Byramji Shavakshah gives us positive information as to the meaning of a surcharge impressed upon stamps of Type 4 of Nowanuggur. The surcharge consists of two characters, the first of which resembles a figure '2,' and the second is like a Greek 'ε.' When stamps thus overprinted were first met with, at the end of 1895, they were supposed to be for *Official* use, and we chronicled them under that head in January, 1896; Dr. Byramji Shavakshah tells us that he has been offered these stamps at long prices, as provisional 2 docra stamps, but that the surcharge is really the word *rud*, and means 'cancelled by the post office.' It was applied to the remainders when the State Post Office was closed at the end of 1895. We have it also upon Type 1, and upon all three values of the type-set stamps; it appears to be always struck in magenta."

ORANGE RIVER COLONY (236 S 272). We are informed by Mr. E. Heginbottom that

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (271 G 272).—The £1 value with large "Postage" is reported by the *Philatelic Record* (11.04/249).



Adhesive. Perf. 12? Design as above.

£1 dark blue.

Issued before 11.04?

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (266 U 272).—Mr. J. H. Sutton informs us he has the following additional official stamps:—

Official stamps. Perforated "W.A."

2/- red.

2/6 blue.

5/- green.

10/- violet.

£1 brown.

ZANZIBAR (266 R 272).—According to Mr. Godinho, writing in the *Philatelic Journal of India*, the quantities of the recent surcharged stamps issued were as follows:—

1 on 4½a.	13,370	2½ on 7½a.	4,670
1 on 4a.	8,000	2½ on 8a.	3,349
2 on 4a.	4,010		

The figures differ slightly from those given six weeks ago on the authority of a German journal.

The History of Postmarks.

At a meeting of the Manchester Philatelic Society yesternight week at the Grand Hotel, the President (Mr. W. D. Beckton) in the chair.

Mr. Nathan Heywood read a paper on our Local and General Postmarks from 1660 to 1854. The system of postmarking letters by hand stamps began, in all probability, in 1660, soon after the Restoration. The first impression was of circular form, and contained in the upper half the month, and in the lower half the date. No place-names or year appears. The former was unnecessary, as there was only one post office, namely, Lombard Street, on the site of the present building. The franking of letters through the General Post Office by certain privileged persons began also in 1660, but whether the postmarking had any connection with the occurrence is uncertain. In 1661, an Act, defining the rights of privileged persons to frank letters, passed through the Commons, but was thrown out by the Upper Chamber. When Post Offices were opened in the provinces, the name of the place was added to the stamp. Where no place was mentioned London was the receiving office. The postmark remained the same, except that the day of the month was placed in the upper half of the circle, and the month below. This mark is found up to 1785. The design was changed to a double circle in 1787, and the year was added about this time. The name of the town, hand-printed in two lines, was first impressed in the reign of Queen Anne; later in one line with a number below, probably to indicate the distance in miles from the General Post Office in London. The town name is next found in the form of a curve, and finally is printed in circular form.

The first frank stamp appeared about 1773. It was a circular mark with the word "free" in one line. In 1683, William Dockwra began in the city of London the first penny post. The General Post and the Penny Post at this time were two distinct establishments, the General having only one receiving house in Lombard Street, the charge being fourpence for fifteen miles. The Penny Post was only a local post, and had seven hundred receiving houses in London and the suburbs. The Penny Post was eventually taken over by the General Post, Dockwra being appointed manager. Dockwra's triangular stamp is a rara avis. In 1801, the London Penny Post